

Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

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E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, JA

SUBJECT: UPPER HOUSE PLENARY SESSION JUNE 13

REF: TOKYO 7315

SUMMARY: MITI MINISTER YASHUHIRO NAKASONE EXPRESSED REGRET IN UPPER HOUSE PLENARY SESSION JUNE 13 THAT CONTROVERSIAL REMARKS LED TO CONFUSION IN UPPER HOUSE BUT REFUSED TO MAKE CORRECTION. OPPOSITION CHARGED THAT NAKASONE DESCRIPTION OF JAPAN AS MONARCHY DURING RECENT VISIT TO IRAN VIOLATED CONSTITUTION. IN VIGOROUS DEFENSE OF NAKASONE AGAINST OPPOSITION CRITICISM. PRIMIN TANAKA STATED THAT GOJ SUPPORTS CONSTITUTION AND HAS NO INTENTION TO REVISE IT AT PRESENT. PRIMIN AND NAKASONE APPEARANCE COMPLETED PROCESS OF RESTORATION OF NORMAL PROCEEDINGS IN UPPER HOUSE. END SUMMARY.

1. PRIMIN TANAKA AND MITI MINISTER NAKASONE APPEARED BEFORE UPPER HOUSE PLENARY SESSION MORNING JUNE 13 TO REPLY TO EMERGENCY QUESTIONS BY OPPOSITION WHICH CHARGED TPOT LATTER' S REMARK THAT JAPAN AND IRAN BOTH NATIONS UNDER IMPERIAL RULE VIOLATED CONSTITUTION. THEIR APPEARANCE AND NAKASONE APOLOGY SATISFIED CONDITION DEMANDED BY OPPOSITION AS PRICE FOR COMPROMISE TO END

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BOYCOTT OF UPPER HOUSE PROCEEDINGS (REFTEL).

2. PRIMIN TANAKA FIRMLY REJECTED DEMAND BY TSUYOSHI SUZUKI (JSP) THAT NAKASONE RESIGN TO TAKE RESPONSIBILITY FOR REMARK. SINCE IT MADE ON SOCIAL OCCASION IN TERMS INTENDED TO BE EASILY UNDERSTOOD BY FOREIGNER PRIMIN DENINED ANY NEED TO MAKE CORRECTION. IN LENGTHY RESPONSES STATING GOJ VIEW OF PERTINENT ARTICLES, PRIMIN ALSO STATED THAT GOJ INCLUDING NAKASONE CORRECTLY UNDERSTOOD THAT CONSTITUTION DOES NOT PROVIDE FOR EMPEROR TO RULE JAPAN.

3. NAKASONE APOLOGIZED FOR CARELESS REMARK WHICH CAUSED CONFUSION IN UPPER HOUSE. HE EXPLAINED THAT REMARK WAS INTENDED TO INCREASE RAPPORT WITH PRIMIN AMIR ABAS HOVEYDA BY NOTING THAT JAPAN AND IRAN HAVE IN COMMON SIMILAR LONG TRADITION AS MONARCHIES. HE REGRETTEED THAT IMPRECISE NATURE OF REMARK INVITED MISUNDERSTANDING BUT REJECTED DEMAND TO MAKE CORRECTION.

4. IN RESPONSE TO CHARGE BY TOSHITSUGU NAKAMURA (DSP) THAT RECENT SERIES OF MISTATEMENTS CREATED SUSPICION THAT GOJ WISHES TO MAKE POLITICAL USE OF EMPEROR AND EVEN TO REVISE CONSTITUTION, PRIMIN STATED THAT GOJ HAS NO INTENTION TO INVOLVE EMPEROR IN POLITICS AND WISHES TO AVOID EVEN SLIGHT INFRINGEMENT OF POPULAR CONSENSUS ON POSITION OF EMPEROR.

5. AFTER CRITICISING REMARKS MADE IN IRAN, MASAO IWAMA (JCP) CHARGED THAT NAKASONE STATEMENT ABOUT EMPEROR AT LDP POLITICAL RALLY IN OSAKA JUNE 2 ALSO QTE TRAMPLED ON CONSTITUTION UNQTE. ACCORDING TO EARLIER PRESS REPORTS NAKASONE SAID IN OSAKA THAT QTE EMPEROR SHINES BRILLIANTLY AS SYMBOL OF STATE, STANDS AS SPIRITUAL CORE OF NATION AND AS SUCH FUNCTIONS TO UNITE PEOPLE, STABILIZE NATION AND PREVENT CIVIL STRIFE UNQTE. NAKASONE TOLD PRESS JUNE 4 THAT IN OSAKA HE QUOTED DEFINITION OF STATUS OF EMPEROR PRESENTED BY GOJ IN 1946 CONSTITUTION DIET AS PREFACE TO OWN QUESTION ASKING WHETHER JCP STILL ADHERES TO POSITION CALLING FOR ABOLITION OF EMPEROR SYSTEM.

6. IWAMA ALSO DEMANDED THAT GOJ HALT INFORMAL BRIEFING OF LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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EMPEROR (NAISO) ON GROUNDS THAT CONSTITUTION MAKES NO PROVISION FOR THIS PRACTICE. PRIMIN REPLIED THAT GOJ MINISTERS CALLING AT PALACE WOULD CONTINUE INFORMAL BRIEFINGS TO KEEP EMPEROR INFORMED OF MATTERS UNDER THEIR JURISDICTION.
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